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United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Utah State Office
P.O. Box 45155
Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0155
<http://www.blm.gov>



IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO:

3482, U-79975, UTU-81893
U-66060, SL-027304, U69600
U-010581, UTU-8193,
(UT-923)

NOV 19 2007

Certified Mail-Return Receipt Requested
Certificate No. 7006 0810 0000 7222 3521

Mr. David Hibbs
Manager of Engineering
UtahAmerican Energy, Inc.
P. O. Box 902
Price, Utah 84501

RE: Approval of a Minor Modification to the Resource Recovery and Protection Plan (R2P2),
Ventilation and North Area Mine Plan Changes, Aberdeen Mine

Dear Mr. Hibbs:

Background: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has received and reviewed the subject R2P2 modification request from UtahAmerican Energy, Inc. (UEI) for the Aberdeen Mine. The modification requests a number of changes to the R2P2. Two changes involve the ventilation system, a third change proposes to shorten longwall panel 10 for low coal conditions, and a fourth change proposes to add new gob ventilation holes. These changes were verbally approved prior to or on March 29, 2007. In addition, UEI proposed the mine layout and timing for the new Kenilworth lease tract and the proposed lease modification area that has not yet been approved. The areas in question are in the Aberdeen Seam of the Aberdeen Mine.

Affected Leases & LMUs: The following Federal coal leases are affected by this action: SL-027304 (called SL-027305 in the request letter), U-010581, UTU-69600 and proposed but not issued modification of lease UTU-79975.

Proposal: The proposed changes to the R2P2 are summarized, with their respective justifications, below:

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DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

1. UtahAmerican proposed to sink a shaft and install a forced air ventilation fan near the warehouse in the Right Fork of Deadman Canyon. The shaft exited into existing mine workings at the end of the Main East entries. The forced air fan would enable UEI to meet the air requirements for the north mine area including the new Kenilworth lease.
2. UtahAmerican plans to drive new ventilation entries from the Left Fork mine fan around existing mine workings on the west end, up into the new Kenilworth lease tract. The ventilation entries would provide a more efficient air course for the new north reserves.
3. Longwall panel #10 (14th East Headgate) would be shortened by about 1100 feet with the set up room driven at crosscut 54 in 13th East. Mining has encountered the large floor rock parting earlier than what was found in 12th East.
4. UtahAmerican proposed 8 additional Gob Ventilation Drill Holes for longwall panel #10. These extra holes are projected to increase the removal of methane gas from the mining area.
5. UtahAmerican has submitted mining plans for the new Kenilworth lease area and updated mine wide sequencing and timing for the new life of mine plan.
6. UtahAmerican has submitted mining plans for the proposed modification area to lease UTU-79975 and updated mine wide sequencing and timing for the new life of mine plan.

Inspection: The BLM inspected the 13th and 14th East sections on March 29, 2007 and has verified the rock parting in the floor of Panel 10. Conditions are very similar to those found on the east end of panels 6 and 7, but the parting has appeared further west than projected. The parting has increased in thickness from a few inches to over 1.5 feet within 300 feet of advance. Just inby the proposed longwall set up room, the coal above the parting is less than 6 feet thick. The parting is appearing in 14th East at the same distance from the mains as it is in 13th East.

Approved: The BLM has evaluated the proposals and documents our findings. The R2P2 modification submittal letter from UEI has multiple requests, some of which can be approved, and some of which cannot be approved through this letter. The BLM approves the following elements of the subject R2P2 modification request. This approval is provided by BLM only; all other approvals by other entities and agencies are not part of this approval. A copy of the mine map that includes the approved items is included.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA): This approval of a minor modification to an approved R2P2 of an existing underground coal mine is Categorically Excluded from NEPA analysis, as explained in the Department Manual (5 DM Part 516 11.5 (F) (8)).

Other Legal Compliances: The BLM has determined that this modification complies with the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, the regulations at 43CFR 3480, and the lease terms and conditions.

If you have any questions, please contact Stephen Falk at the Price Field Office at 435-636-3605 or Jeff McKenzie of my staff at 801-539-4038.

Sincerely,

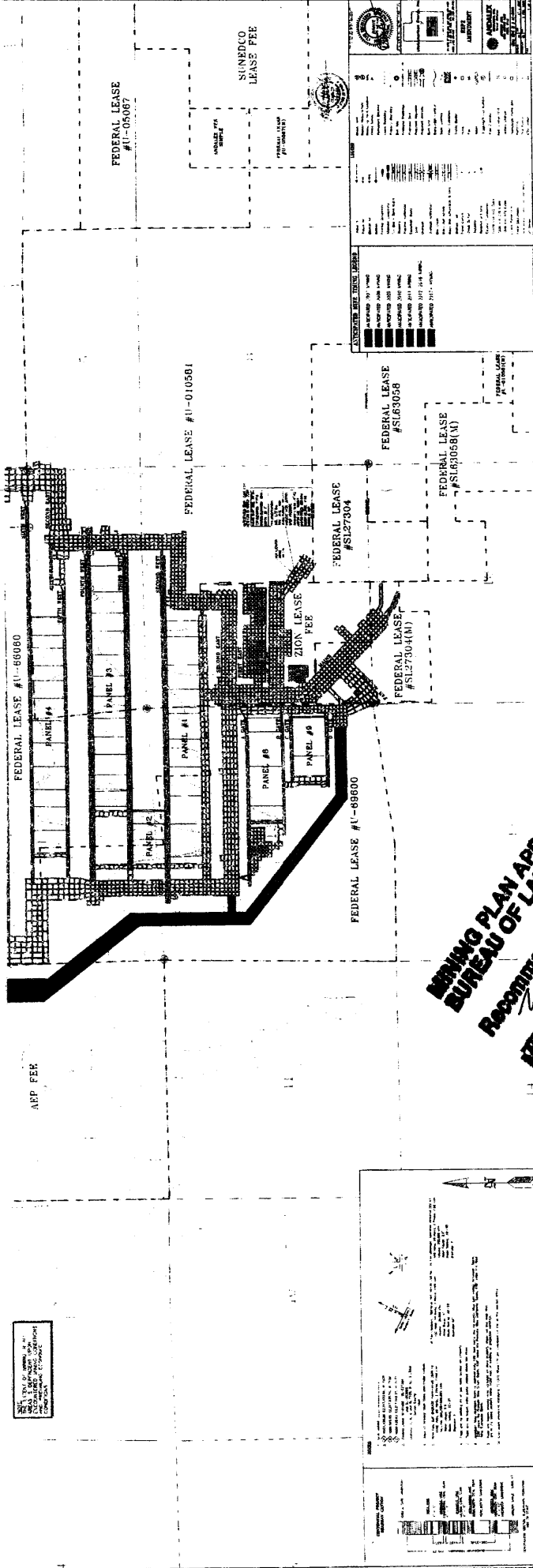
 /s/ Jeff McKenzie

James F. Kohler
Chief, Solid Minerals

Enclosure:

Mine Plan Map (two parts) - portions are approved as stated in this letter

cc: UT-070, Price Field Office (w/ Enclosure)
Utah Division of Oil Gas and Mining (w/ Enclosure)
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
Salt Lake City, Utah 84414-5801



**MINING PLAN APPROVED BY
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

Recommended By: *[Signature]* (Date) *11/19/07*

Mining Engineer

Approved By: *[Signature]* (Date) *19 Nov. 2007*

Manager

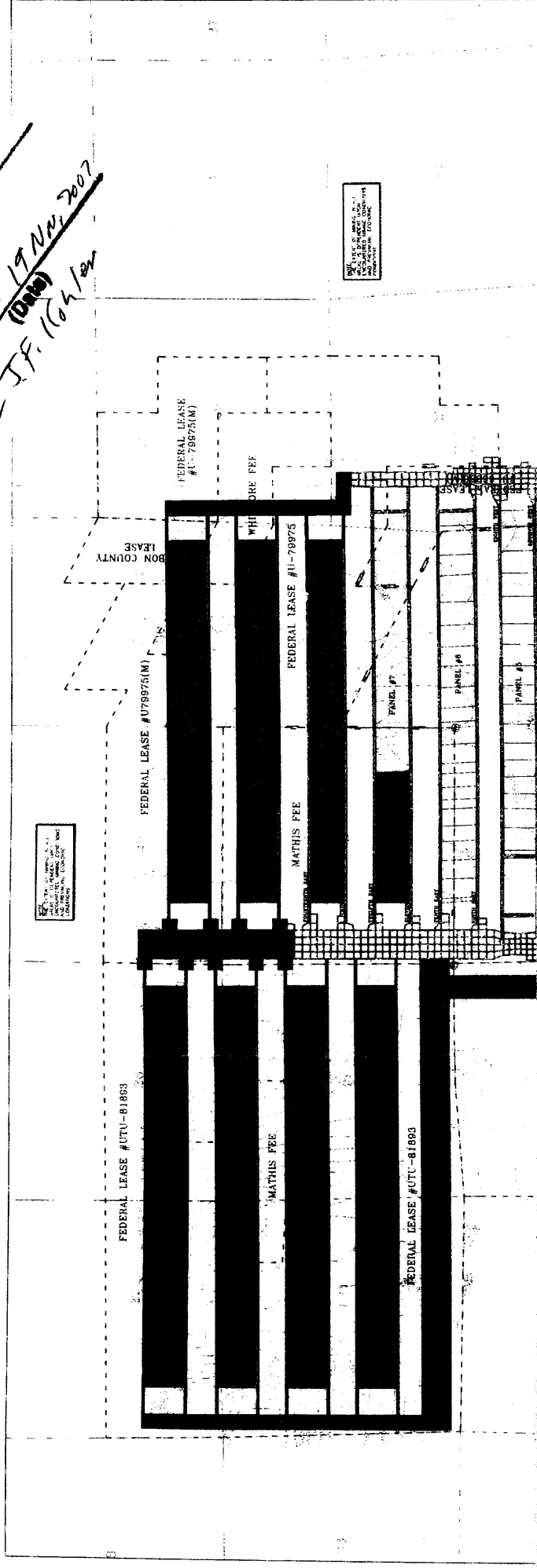
For J.F. Kohler

**MINING PLAN APPROVED BY
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

Recommended By:

Mining Engineer (Date)

Approved By:
[Signature]
Manager (Date)
For J.F. 10/1/07



[Signature]
11/19/07